

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the paragraph containing the single word CLAIMS, beginning at Page 9, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (New) A process for filling flexible receptacles set on crate-type rigid or semi-rigid palletized outer receptacles, comprising the steps of:

prior to usage:

one of folding and rolling up a flexible receptacle having an upper loading and lower unloading mouth; and

fitting a wrapping around the rolled-up or folded receptacle;

during usage:

fitting the flexible receptacle in a rigid or semi-rigid outer receptacle such that the lower unloading mouth of the flexible receptacle is positioned in a lower recess of the rigid or semi-rigid receptacle;

fitting an upper bridge having at least one slot on the outer receptacle to control unfolding of the flexible receptacle during a filling operation;

fitting the loading mouth in a corresponding support of the upper bridge;

fitting surplus flexible material of the flexible receptacle in the at least one slot in the upper bridge;

connecting an outer unloading conduit with the loading mouth of the flexible receptacle to fill the flexible receptacle with a material.

13. (New) A process according to claim 12, wherein said step of one of folding and rolling up the flexible receptacle includes the step of one of folding and rolling up the flexible receptacle along a surface thereof which is opposite to a surface which has the loading and unloading mouths thereon.

14. (New) A process according to claim 12, wherein the wrapping which surrounds the folded or rolled-up flexible receptacle has a height approximately equal to or slightly less than the height of the flexible receptacle on which the wrapping is located.

15. (New) A process according to claim 12, further comprising the step of providing a covering of a laminar material around

inner surfaces of the outer receptacle for protection.

16. A process according to claim 15, wherein said covering of a laminar material includes one of:

cardboard,  
plastic, and  
metal sheets.

17. A process according to claim 12, wherein said wrapping is in one of the following forms:

a flexible sleeve of laminar material,  
elastic bands, and  
adhesive tape.

18. (New) A device for filling flexible receptacles set on crate-type rigid or semi-rigid palletized outer receptacles, comprising:

a rolled up flexible laminar receptacle having a loading mouth and an unloading mouth;  
an outer wrapping which partly covers said rolled up laminar flexible receptacle; and  
a bridge for holding the loading mouth in a loading position on an outer receptacle during a loading phase, the bridge including a slot for letting an upper surplus of the flexible laminar receptacle therethrough in a loading stage.

19. (New) A device according to claim 18, wherein the outer wrapping has a height defined by a distance between the loading mouth and the unloading mouth.

20. (New) A device according to claim 18, wherein the bridge includes at least one of the following for engagement with the outer receptacle:

lateral holding supports, and  
a front holding support.

21. (New) A device according to claim 18, wherein the bridge is articulated to an upper edge of the outer receptacle.

22. (New) A device according to claim 18, wherein the bridge includes an insertion zone and a holding zone, the insertion zone having a recess of smaller diameter than the loading mouth.

23. (New) A device according to claim 18, wherein the bridge includes two rods which form the slot, the bridge being adapted to be at least partially formed by the rods.

24. (New) A device according to claim 18, wherein the flexible laminar receptacle has a semi-rigid material on a lower side thereof.

25. (New) A device according to claim 24, wherein the semi-rigid material includes a sheet of cardboard affixed thereto.